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they are to be considered. Therefore, in order to bring the question of *nomina conservanda* before the next International Congress, we, the undersigned, have drawn up and forwarded to the secretary of the International Commission, Dr. Ch. W. Stiles, Washington, D. C., the following proposal:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE  
OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

To add to Article 26.

To avoid disadvantageous changes in the nomenclature of genera by the strict application of the rules of nomenclature, and especially of the principle of priority, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is empowered to prepare a list of names to be retained. These names are to be by preference those which have come into general use in the fifty years following their publication, especially those generic names upon which long used family names are based, and those which have been used in monographs and important works up to the year 1890. With each generic name thus conserved is to be cited a type species, to be chosen with a view to retaining the name in its most widely known sense, even if thereby an exception must be made to the other provisions of this code.

We beg leave to suggest to American zoologists individually and to zoological societies the need that the commission be fully informed as to the state of opinion among us concerning the substance of this proposal. The commission has in times past published an invitation to all zoologists to send in proposed lists of *nomina conservanda*, and has met with little response. This was doubtless due to the form of the invitation, the data called for being far more than any of us had time to compile. It will require little effort to write a postcard to the secretary of the commission, expressing approval or disapproval of plan proposed; it will be easier still to vote "yes" or "no" to a question prepared for circulation among the members of any society having zoological interests. It is urged that in all zoological societies, such an inquiry be circulated for personal signature, and that the result of the vote be forwarded to the commission and also published in the

scientific press. We entertain a hope that the real opinion of zoologists may thus find expression, and that such expression may so influence future rule-making as to prevent the unspeakable confusion of our literature that already impends.

(Signed)

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J. H. COMSTOCK  
J. G. NEEDHAM  
H. D. REED  
W. A. RILEY  
ANNA H. MORGAN

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THE RAINEY AFRICAN COLLECTION

THE final shipment of the extensive natural history collection made by the Paul J. Rainey expedition in British East Africa, numbering some fourteen barrels and thirteen cases, has been received at the U. S. National Museum, and is being unpacked in the taxidermy shops. The collection is of large size, including some 4,000 specimens, more than 700 of which are those of large game.

Mr. Edmund Heller has been the guest of Mr. Paul J. Rainey on his African hunting trip, and accompanied the expedition for the purpose of preserving the animals secured. Mr. Rainey has donated the entire collection to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum. While Mr. Heller had charge of the preservation of mammals in general, he paid special attention to collecting carnivores and ungulates. In a Smithsonian publication, now in press, Mr. Heller describes twenty-four new species of African rodents found in the collection. During the trip Mr. Rainey granted Mr. Heller every opportunity to make a complete survey of mammals. His assistants, twenty or thirty trained negro skinners, porters, etc., were employed by the safari.

Among the material obtained is the series of lions captured by Mr. Rainey's American bear-hounds, as described in his well-known lectures. There are also many specimens of different kinds of antelopes, including the hartebeestes, wildebeestes and waterbucks, as well as buffaloes, zebras, cheetahs, monkeys and rodents. A few hippo skulls and rhino

skins and one elephant were also collected. A large number of birds was secured, including some of the rarest species. Many are game birds, among them guinea-fowls and francolins (which resemble our partridges), and plantain-eaters, crows, bustards, vultures, vulturine guinea-fowl, owls, hawks, kites, secretary birds, horn-bills, pigeons, parrots, sun-birds, flycatchers, etc., are represented. There are also four ostrich eggs.

The party remained in the field nearly a year, having sailed from New York for Mombasa on February 18, 1911, not dispersing until about February 15, 1912, at Nairobi. The territory traversed was mostly to the north and east of that covered by Colonel Roosevelt on the earlier Smithsonian expedition, and included the country lying between the northern part of British East Africa and southern Abyssinia.

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#### THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

THE International Geological Congress, on the joint invitation of the government of Canada, the provincial governments, the Department of Mines and the Canadian Mining Institute, will hold its twelfth meeting in Canada during the summer of 1913. It is proposed to hold the meeting in Toronto, beginning on or about the twenty-first day of August. The congress will continue in session for eight days.

The following topics have been selected by the executive committee as the principal subjects for discussion:

1. The coal resources of the world.
2. Differentiation in igneous magmas.
3. The influence of depth on the character of metaliferous deposits.
4. The origin and extent of the pre-Cambrian sedimentaries.
5. The subdivisions, correlation and terminology of the pre-Cambrian.
6. To what extent was the Ice Age broken by interglacial periods?
7. The physical and faunal characteristics of the Paleozoic seas with reference to the value of the recurrence of seas in establishing geologic systems.

The executive committee of the Eleventh Congress, held in Sweden, compiled and published a comprehensive report on the Iron Ore Resources of the World. The present executive committee has undertaken the preparation of a similar monograph on the Coal Resources of the World. In order to make the work as complete as possible the cooperation of all the principal countries of the world has been invited. This invitation has met with a cordial response, and it is hoped the volumes will be ready for distribution before the meeting so that they may constitute a basis for discussion at the congress.

Arrangements have been made for a series of excursions before, during and after the congress which will enable the members to gain a knowledge of the geology and physiography as well as the mineral resources of Canada.

The honorary president of the congress is the Duke of Connaught, governor general of the Dominion of Canada. The president is Dr. Frank D. Adams, dean of the faculty of applied science and Logan professor of geology, McGill University, Montreal, and the general secretary is Mr. R. W. Brock, director of the Geological Survey of Canada.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the University of Michigan on June 27, the degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Dr. Henry S. Carhart, professor of physics there from 1886 until his retirement in 1909 as emeritus professor. As already noted in *SCIENCE*, the degree of doctor of science has been conferred on Dr. Carhart by Northwestern University, where he was professor of physics from 1872 to 1886.

YALE UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Professor H. T. Eddy, dean of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. Professor Eddy, who is president of Sigma Xi, gave one of the addresses of the joint meeting of the members of the societies of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.